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WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1912.

ATHLETES OUTHANK FRAT MEN.

That the average scholastic standing of all athletes at the University of Virginia is higher than that of the members of the Greek letter fraternities seems shown by comparative tables published in the 1912 annual of the university, "Corks and Curbs." After exhaustive research in the books of the registrar it was found that the average standing of all fraternity men was 75.5, that of all athletes, 74.5, and that of the entire student body, 74.8. The average of all nonfraternity men was 76.2. In other words the "Barbarians" averaged three points better than the Greeks, and the athletes 1.3 points better.

This would look rather black for the fraternities were it not for the fact that in a table of grades made by the members of the different frats, it is shown that the standing of the highest individual society was 81, or five points above the Barb average. Of course, no vital conclusions can be drawn from these figures, as they represent only one year's work, but the old fact stands out that belonging to any society does not prevent a man from doing his best work, and that any condemnation of the society system should be made on the records of the manifestly inferior work done by certain individual groups. There are good and bad fraternities from the study standpoint, just as there are good and bad elements in everything else. Any old university man can name organizations that are certainly below grade as a usual thing, and he can name others that always stand well in a scholastic way.

The athletic statistics would indicate that playing on the teams does not lower a man's grade below the average of his fellows. This may be due to the wholesome tendency of college faculties to demand an average mark of members of the squads. Some interesting light is thrown upon the branches of athletics by their relative ranks. In baseball, the grade is 74.6; in basketball, 72.2; in track, 76.5; in relay, 77.4, and in football, 68.6. If any deduction can be made from this it is that the kind of football and the heavy physical type of player required, tend to lower the scholarship standard. That basketball is less learned than track work is apparently just the accident of one year's personnel.

Other comparisons are equally instructive. The highest grade for a year's work was 98.3; the lowest, 6. The puzzle here is how the latter youth remained through the year. By departments, the men who made above the pass mark stand in the following per cent: Graduate department, 55 per cent; college, 55 per cent; law school, 50 per cent; medical school, 51 per cent; engineering school, 50 per cent. Of the entire enrollment, 533, made over 70 per cent, which is about the pass grade of less strict institutions. On the whole, Virginia has every reason to be proud of her university that demands the highest standards of scholarship and then enables such a majority to make the marks required for a successful completion of the work.

SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR CITIES.

Conscious at last that "The State treats its cities worse than Great Britain treated her American colonies," as a member put it, the Ohio Constitutional Convention has decided to give the municipalities of Ohio very great latitude in their own government. The plenary power as to municipal rule has been transferred from the State to the city, a just and wise reform which should be imitated by every State of the nation. By a vote of 124 to 7 the convention voted that—

"Municipalities shall have authority to exercise all powers of local self-government and enforce within their limits such local police, sanitary and other similar regulations as are not in conflict with general laws."

Municipalities will be small sovereigns within their own borders. Under the new Constitution municipalities may have any form of government they wish, federal plan, board plan, commission plan, or any other, without having to go to the Legislature to secure it. Municipalities may frame their own charters and exercise all powers of local self-government not prohibited by the general laws of the State. The doctrine that municipalities may do only the things the State authorities them to do is abrogated, and the proposition that they may do all things not prohibited is substituted. Municipalities are allowed to own and operate all sorts of public utilities. The new grant is perhaps a larger measure of some power than is possessed by any other State in the nation.

Municipalities are classified into cities and villages, 5,000 being the line of demarcation. The Legislature may frame general laws for the government of municipalities applicable to those that adopt them, but no law of the State on municipal organization

shall affect any municipality until it has been approved by vote of the people. Municipalities are vested with supreme power over police and sanitary regulations, except such as conflict with State law.

By condemnation or otherwise, any municipality may acquire public utilities, and may issue bonds to do so. Up to the debt limit, the bonds shall be issued against the credit of the whole municipality, and the excess of bonds over the debt limit shall be against the property acquired. Vote of the people is made necessary before any such steps can be taken. Municipalities are given the right to sell their products outside their borders up to 50 per cent of the total.

By two-thirds of its Council, or by petition of 10 per cent of the electors, the question of whether there shall be a charter commission shall be submitted to the people. Fifteen men shall compose the commission. The charter so framed must be submitted to a vote of the people. By vote of two-thirds of the legislative body, or 10 per cent of the people, amendments to the charter may be submitted to the people. Municipalities are given power to acquire more property than they need for public improvements and sell the excess. They are given power to make assessments against property benefited by public improvements. The General Assembly is left with full power of taxation and over the incurring of indebtedness.

The Ohio Constitutional Convention has set a sound and salutary example to be followed by other States. Municipalities should have the greater measure of home rule consistent with the supreme power of the State. That is true of Virginia as well as of other States. Especially is this the case in so far as a change of the form of government is concerned. A city or town ought to be enabled to adopt a new and better form of government without having to seek statutory or constitutional changes by the Legislature. The change affects none but the municipality involved, and is a question of local self-government, and not of general government.

DESERVED COMPLIMENTS.

In discussing the Allen trial, the Northern press, as it did in the Beattie case, is complimenting the Virginia bench and bar on their acceleration of the court proceedings. The Brooklyn Standard-Union, which is not given as a rule to finding anything good in the South, has some specimen comments on the subject in which it holds up the "swift work" in both the Allen and the Beattie cases as an example to judges and lawyers in New York and other States, which is worthy of all emulation.

That contemporary notes with satisfaction that the jury to try the chief of the Virginia gang of court assassins was chosen without delay, wrangling or many challenges. No body, however, it continues, has risen to charge that counsel for the defense neglected his clients' interests by not making a great ado before the jury box was filled. The Standard-Union supplements this with the admission that "unfortunately such swiftness in selecting twelve men is almost invariably absent in important cases" in its own State and many other States, and arrives at the solution that in Virginia either the lawyers are not given to quibbling and purposely delaying trials, or the judges play a more powerful part in expediting affairs.

Possibly, resumes our contemporary, the speed attained is due to both counsel and judge, for apparently the English custom is more closely adhered to and irrelevances dismissed by common consent. Recurring, in conclusion, to the Beattie case, it says the trial "went from beginning to end, from drawing the first juror until the twelve had reached their decision, without scarcely an hour's unnecessary delay." The Judiciary and the bar of Virginia will deserve these words of commendation, which, as we have indicated, are but an echo of similar expressions from Northern newspapers.

The Standard-Union reaches the true explanation of what constitutes our bench and bar an example for the Judiciary and legal profession of States in which so much looseness, delay of the law and miscarriage of justice, due to technical manoeuvring, obtain. That explanation is conservatism—holding fast to the underlying principles of an old tested system, which at once has rendered the Virginia Judiciary among the most independent of any in the country, and inculcates in the bar not only the highest respect for the bench, but contempt for pettifoggery, legal chicanery and shuffling.

THE SEIZURE OF RHODES.

The occupation of the island of Rhodes by Italy in prosecution of her Tripolitan war recalls a wealth of ancient and medieval history, of classical legend, lore and literature. It brings before the vision a wonderfully picturesque panorama of the rise and fall of empires, of chivalry, of romantic deeds, of daring, of suffering and sacrifice on the altars of religious fanaticism. From the tomb of the dead and buried past it awakens echoes of the tramp of the conquering legions of Persia, Macedonia, Greece, Rome and Christendom, of the conquering cry of the Crusader, of the ravening, merciless snibboleth of the Turk. Far back in the vista of the corridors of time, again we behold the supernatural sign in the heavens that

beckoned Constantine on to the glorying of Byzantium, and the challenging, defiant, blood-stained green banner of the prophet. Before us is unveiled once more a priceless volume of the world's most ambitious art and architecture.

For centuries Rhodes was the centre for recurring battle and siege, of storm and stress, of slaughter, sack and destruction. It has long, however, been out of the track of the movement of historic events. For ages it has been off the stage of national dramas. To the average reader it is perhaps chiefly familiar on account of its having been the site of the celebrated Colossus of Rhodes, one of the seven wonders of the world, the birthplace of the creators of that marvelous sculptural treasure, the Laocoön, and the citadel of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, who held it from 1319, until 1522, when, after a most heroic and tragic defense, they were compelled to capitulate to Selim, the Magnificent. That it should have fallen to the Italians, virtually without resistance, is out of the order of both its traditional and historical example. As illustrative of the courage and valor of the Rhodians, it is chronicled that Demetrius Poliorcetes, whose siege they withstood among other famous ones, so admired them that upon withdrawing he presented them with elaborate war engines and appliances. These, we are further told, the Rhodians subsequently sold to pay for the famous Colossus.

The population of the island is about 25,000, a large majority of whom, as to the case in Crete, are Greeks and Christians. But owing to its proximity to the coast of Asia Minor it has not been, like Crete, a disturbing political factor in the nearer East. In view of Italy's other naval operations in the Aegean and off the shores of Turkey in Asia, her occupation should occasion no surprise. None the less, it is highly significant. As a strategic point, commanding the entrance to the Aegean, and as a base from which to raid the other islands of that sea and hold them as hostages and harry the coast of Turkey in Europe, Rhodes is of no small importance. The stroke can hardly fail of the interpretation that Italy is in earnest in the matter of forcing the hand of the European Christian nations, through systematic recourse to these raiding and harrying tactics, if necessary.

Italy's conquest of the Aegean, for the purpose of possessing it permanently, would doubtless meet with formidable opposition from the powers, but her right to use its Turkish islands temporarily as pawns in the game of war she is engaged in has been negatively conceded, at least. In her seizure of Rhodes she is simply and logically pressing the advantages of the concession. It would be a turn of the wheel of time no less momentous than interesting that would bring carnage-christened Rhodes back into prominence, to stand out in the world's history as symbolizing the key to peace.

A LOG ACROSS THE ROAD.

Why do the people of Virginia refuse to lower their tax rate when they could if they would? Why do they refuse to spend more money for roads and education when they could if they would? Why do they waste money that they could spend for their own good?

It is because they suffer the fee system to go on, as a big hole in the people's pocket. Instead of paying their fee officers a fair wage, the people allow them to take all they can get, and they get so much that they are afraid to tell the people how much it amounts to. There was a time when the fee system was justifiable. That was when Virginia was a young State, when wealth and prosperity had not come to dwell in the Old Dominion, when the business of county and city officers was small, and when by fees they accepted the risk of not making a living. That day has long passed. Virginia has marched forward into the ranks of power and progress, but this parasite system still holds on, as much a part of yesterday as the stagecoach or the flintlock. The people do not realize that government in their interest has outgrown the fee system. They have kept on doubling and redoubling the compensation of fee officers, forgetting that they are paying in most cases five or ten times as much as a reasonable salary would foot up to. The people are giving away thousands of dollars to the fee officers which should go into the public treasury. In some counties and cities, the people waste through the fee system on a single officer alone enough to build miles of the best improved roads in the country, or to raise a brand new up-to-date school-house. And, of course, the failure to turn over a new leaf and convert the excess paid these fee officers into the public treasury every year makes the burden of taxation greater and greater in every locality in Virginia.

In North Carolina, the people are waking up and making the fee system a live issue. In county after county, there is a strong movement to take up the fee system by its roots and abolish it for all time. The Tarheels realize that in allowing this system to exist they are robbing themselves; they know that instead of taking the money themselves and spending it to reduce taxes, to construct good roads and to build schoolhouses they are just giving it away to fee officers to spend on fine houses, automobiles and fat investments.

What is impeding the progress of so many Virginia counties and cities? The log across the road—the fee system. There is but one thing to do—chop it in two and get off the road for good, so that it will block no more.

Are you helping the Richmond-to-Washington Highway?

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

"P-l-a-y B-a-l-l!"
 Oh, look at all the columns handing out the dissonant news,
 And listen to the experts as they peddle out their views.
 Forget about the Congress and when Roosevelt will land
 The real folks soon are going to quit preliminaries and
 "P-l-a-y B-a-l-l!"

Oh, watch the fans out throwing old pop bottles at a mark.
 To be in team to toss them when they get out to this park.
 Ice cream makers now rejoice and peanut vendors smile;
 They know that they will surely hear in just a little while:
 "P-l-a-y B-a-l-l!"

The office boy's grandmother is about to pass away.
 The clerks will all be getting ill at 2 o'clock each day.
 The very atmosphere is laden with the only game.
 There seems to be no doubt at all that summertime have came.
 "P-l-a-y B-a-l-l!"

The Real American Game.

"By hookey! There are days, boys, when a man can't lay up a cent, and this seems to be one of 'em, but I am going to stick this time for five little old beans and have a look."

"Not for five, George. It's going to cost you about twice that. This is no place for children or suffragets' accounts. Look out for me this time, in the little old prospect with the tin can. If I help, it's the 'Gate Ajar' for you ginks, so it is—"

"Oh, I ain't got nothing much but a pair of hackdrivers," says the third. "But I guess your Uncle Dad will have to linger and see if he can't help help out with the rent this month. I got you, Steve, and ten little seeds more. Hear me ring the bell. Oh, peaches and cream, here's a heavy villain I didn't know I had."

Chorus: "Gee whizz, Hank! You know there's a collie in the room, and you ain't allowed to crack the plaster. Tain't fair to our host, and besides, if you'd be reasonable we'd all stick around."

Host: "Never mind me, boys. You can stick 'em up as high as the Eiffel Tower. I got a couple of dizzy little chorus girls that look good. Two bits for mine. Now I guess you'll all take a walk."

Last man: "You all must have got a regular Plowden Morgan collection for pictures, but I can't lay down four little Democrats. I had to trick the family sock before I left home, so I can't go stronger than birdseed. I guess we'll all take a glance at the movin' pictures. What chu got, gent?"

First man: "I wasn't handin' you any baby talk on my mind. I got 'em this time and I got 'em here to pass me the Carnegie medal. Ess, Bessie and Tessie, three beautiful little typewriters."

Second man: "Honest, George, you're funder that Johnnie Ray. Why don't you stay out until you get something? I guess you'll all have to shove 'em over to your Uncle Dudley this time. Mine are all blue. Five of 'em. All little hearts with a point on one end and a dent on the other."

Third man: "I'm on my way to Reno. Good-night, nurse."

Host: "Way, you ginks don't think you're going to come here and lick up all my refreshments and smoke my cigars and get away with a pot like that, do you? Pay me the little bet this time, boys. Here's mine. Put on your snoot and goggles and pipe 'em off. Three head ushers and a pair of messenger boys."

Chorus: "You're a — of a host. That ain't no sort of a way to treat your company. Do you want us to pay all your rent ever ymoth?"

Last man: "Hold on, there captain. Don't pull in the gang plank. I told you all that I had four little Democrats, but you wouldn't take the hunch. I play honest, and there they are. Don't they look pretty and innocent like? Pass the related stuff this way, please."

Chorus: "For the love of Mike, shake 'em up a little this time, Steve. It's gettin' late and we ought to be gettin' some GOOD hands before long."

QUERIES & ANSWERS

Unsinkable.
 The latter attempts to dodge a ball which seems about to strike him and it strikes his hat and bounds off into the diamond. How does it come?

It is a fair ball.

Sea Level at Panama.
 Is it true that the levels of the Pacific and the Atlantic differ considerably at Panama? How is it possible?

Such descriptions of the region as we have seen so state. The difference is declared to arise from the far greater amount of evaporation on the Caribbean Sea side.

Abe Martin



MR. SMILEY GLADD AND MR. LUGUBRIOUS BLUE DISCUSS THE SITUATION.

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright: 1912: By John T. McCutcheon.)



Mr. Gladd—"Why, Mr. Blue, you ought to look more cheerful on a beautiful day like this. What's the matter?"
 Mr. Blue—"Well, for one thing, I'm worried about this Mexican business. It's a good deal more serious than anybody thinks. And you mark my words, this country will be in the thick of it before many a day passes. And then what will happen? Death and fever, panic and disaster! O, it's terrible to contemplate!"
 Mr. Gladd—"O, cheer up, Mr. Blue. Everything seems to be working around all right. Just give them time and peace will be restored."



Mr. Blue—"Well, that isn't the only thing that I'm worried about. Everybody is losing confidence in our form of government. Progress is gained only by constant fighting against hostile and selfish interests. It's enough to discourage anybody—even me."

Mr. Gladd—"O, these obstructionists can't block the way forever. Let's look on it in as cheerful a way as possible."



Mr. Blue—"Everything looks dark to me. The country's going to the dogs. Graft and corruption everywhere, and nobody seems to care. I tell you, we'll have an awful awakening on - of these days."

Voice of the People

A Sea Catastrophe.
 On the European side of the dark blue Atlantic,
 Where dwell noble lords and ladies gay,
 There lay quietly the huge Titanic;
 Then, righting her decks, she sails away.

Swiftly, swiftly on she sails;
 Her course is marked, the billows disturb not;
 Thus pushing on she stems the gales
 In trying to reach high speed's tip-top.

The beluga on the staunch built craft
 Thought little of the ocean's wrath;
 Water was here and water was there,
 But of the sea being watery they were all aware.

Luxuries for each and every one
 Were found in this great man-carrier,
 And each found pleasure here or there
 In passing over the continents' barrier.

But, can great hulls sail on the sea,
 Laden with human freight, created by life,
 Unless misfortunes should sometimes show?
 The question is emphatically answered: No, no.

Now, 'tis true, her doom was sealed,
 Maintaining her speed in the dark,
 Crashing headlong into an iceberg she;
 And dismally pierced her protective bark.

The passengers here, the half-crowd
 Slept soundly in their bed;
 Then suddenly waked, half-naked were,
 They from their quarters fled.

Imagine their sorrows, their woes and pain,
 The alarm was shouted: The ship
 Into His Almighty mercy each life gain;
 They groaned, they moaned and all did shrink.

The lifeboats from the ship
 Snatched off with wild terror were,
 The supply insufficient and long the trip.
 Thus most must sink and die with the ship.

No choice, no selection, no reserve,
 The first to come, the first to serve;
 And separated many a one just married
 Who had not long with his loved one tarried.

She sinketh, she sinketh; two decks now remain,
 Oh God, may Thou Thy mercy impart,
 Then plays the band a glorious strain
 As shudderingly stood each heart.

Farewell, Titanic, thy last mast gone,
 The rich and poor have a watery grave;
 The wreck of the "Unsinkable" has bought them
 Beneath the foaming wave.

ACRE BEARBOROUGH.
 Carson, Dinwiddie county.

WOMAN DIES OF BURNS.
 Dress Catches Fire While She Is Standing Near Kitchen Range.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
 Winchester, Va., May 7.—Burned from head to foot when her dress caught fire while standing with her back to a kitchen range, Miss Cora Bonham, member of a prominent Jefferson county family, suffered agony for ten hours, until she expired, near Summit point, last night. She made frantic efforts to smother the fire with a blanket, and after the flames were extinguished by two men she walked unassisted upstairs to bed, remaining conscious to the end.

No Change in Tax Rate.
 (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
 Williamsburg, Va., May 7.—The James City county Board of Supervisors, James Valden, chairman, presiding, met here to-day. Other members present were John A. Barnes, of Powhatan, and A. J. Johnson, of Stonehouse. The levy for the next year was discussed with interest. The tax rate laid, and all county interests were amply provided for, the public schools receiving approximately \$10,000. The tax rate was fixed at \$1.15, the same as last year. The Toano High School building will be enlarged at a cost of about \$2,000, and two more teachers added.

Next Pilgrimage to Mount Vernon
 Governor Names Delegation to Meet Regents There on May 16.

Governor Mann officially announced yesterday the names of the men who will make the annual pilgrimage of inspection to Mount Vernon in behalf of the State of Virginia on May 16, there to meet the regents of the Mount Vernon Association and pass upon the condition of Washington's old home. The list is as follows:

St. George Fitzhugh, of Fredericksburg; Judge L. L. Lewis, of Richmond; A. D. Brockett, of Alexandria; Thomas B. McAdams and Warren B. Taylor, of Richmond. These five men, officially known as the board of visitors of Mount Vernon, act as a sort of advisory board to the Mount Vernon Association in the management of the Mount Vernon estate. There is but one visit paid by the board each year and that during the month of May. A new board of visitors is appointed by the Governor every year.

In view of the recent sensational charges made against the Mount Vernon Association by a Washingtonian before a committee of the last Legislature, unusual interest is attached to this year to the visit of the board. It is hardly expected, however, that official recognition will be paid by the regents and the board to the charges made, although there is certain to be a large amount of informal discussion of the affair.

At the time the charges created a seven-day sensation, the Mount Vernon Association failed to uphold any of the allegations. While an entirely separate organization, the Mount Vernon Association is composed of women from the Daughters of the Revolution and kindred historical societies, and all were more or less embroiled in the trouble.

VBwon also, if you may shrd emf mo "Third. That we heartily indorse and ratify the nomination and candidacy of Hon. Rufus A. Ayers for Congress in this district, and we especially commend to all right-thinking and patriotic voters the high place on which he is conducting his canvass.

"Fourth. That our delegates be instructed to support the Hon. B. F. Buchanan as a delegate to the national convention from the Ninth District.

"Fifth. That the delegates present be instructed to cast the vote of the county."

Clark for Delegate.
 (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
 Lebanon, Va., May 7.—Russell county Democrats elected a delegation to the Norfolk convention to-day. Sixteen delegates, with half a vote each, were elected and instructed to vote for M. C. Clark as delegate to the Baltimore convention.

School Tax Is Voted Down.
 (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
 Spencer, N. C., May 7.—The town of East Spencer to-day voted down a proposition for a special school tax. Out of 111 registered voters, sixty-seven were counted against the measure, and forty-four voted for the tax.

National State and City Bank
 Richmond, Virginia,
 Solicits Your Account
 Capital, \$1,000,000. Surplus, \$600,000.